

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended. New dependent claim 24 which depends from claim 1 has been added. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 21-23.

Independent claims 1, 8, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, and 16 and 18 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,369,969 to Christiansen et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claims 2 and 9 were rejected as being unpatentable over Christiansen et al. under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Negron for extending the courtesy of a telephone interview with counsel, Chun-Pok Leung, on October 26, 2005. During the telephone interview, suitable claim language was discussed to overcome the rejections. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 8, and 15 have been amended to recite that directional patterns are stored in areas of the data tracks between data portions of the data tracks for storing user data and a servo region. Support for the amended claims can be found, for instance, in paragraphs [0021] and [0025]. The servo region is used to store servo data. The data portions of the data track is used to store user data. Fig. 2 depicts the area of the track 215 used to store directional patterns as being positioned between the data portions of the data track 201, 202 and the servo regions 210, 211.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 8, and 15 are novel and patentable over Christiansen et al. because, for instance, Christiansen et al. does not teach or suggest that directional patterns are stored in an area of the data track between data portions of the data track for storing user data and a servo region. In contrast, Christiansen et al. analyzes a

sync mark pattern to determine when the polarity of the bias layer has deviated from the preferred polarity (col. 1, lines 54-67); and the sync mark pattern is located within each servo and data sector (col. 1, lines 19-22).

For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1, 8, and 15, and dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-20, and 24 are patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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